

# Retro Advisory Committee

Meeting of October 10, 1995

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## Minutes

### In Attendance:

Donna Ganders, *WA Health Care Assoc*  
John Gentry, *Decor Carpet One*  
Tom Kwieciak, *Bldg Industry Assoc of WA*  
Kathy Willis, *L&I Retro Program*

Joe Hawkins, *Bekins Northwest*  
Mike Sotelo, *W G Clark Construction*  
John Sweitzer, *Red Lion Inns & Hotels*

### Guests:

Michael Frasier  
Joe Brown  
Dedi Hitchens  
Pam Eaton  
Roy Manicke

Bonni Bailey  
Rita Norton  
Terry Peterson  
Jan Gee

Patty Myntti  
Mary Hollins  
Rob Sumner  
Kathy Kimbel  
Bill White

Introductions of those in attendance were made and the minutes of the August 15, 1995 meeting were approved as distributed.

Gene LaShell (retro claim management consultant) discussed the new series of **claims management education modules** that have been created by retro staff. They hope to make them available for retro members by January 1996; topics will range from “department organization” to “case reserves,” plus many others. Anyone interested can contact their claim management consultant (Lauren Gubbe, Myrna Villanueva, DeAnna Yenne or Gene LaShell). There will be handouts available at the upcoming Retro Participants’ Conference.

Kathy Kimbel and Roy Manicke addressed the **External Access Pilot Project**. This service will be available to all interested retro members beginning January 1996 with training provided by the Department. A packet of information, including a survey, was sent to each retro member earlier in September. The agency is currently working with Dept of Information Services on reducing some of the costs involved in using the dial-in network. Retro participants may be given the option to use “zoned service” (instead of dial-in) which could cost around \$400 per month, plus a one-time setup fee. This would be via dedicated line and would involve the installation of on-site computer hardware. Each participant would need to evaluate the cost vs benefits. It was noted that the communication software used for external access is not Win95 compatible.

Tom Kwieciak and Jan Gee talked about the upcoming meeting of the **WCAC<sup>1</sup> subcommittee on retro reform**. Tom said that Business will be advocating for the main points outlined in House Bill 1911 as a baseline to begin negotiating with Labor.

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<sup>1</sup>Workers’ Compensation Advisory Committee

Mike Sotelo briefly discussed the **Vocational Services BPR<sup>2</sup> Project** he has been involved with. He worked with one of 4 groups charged with redesigning the voc system. Mike was enthused about the outcome and impressed with the Department employees he worked with.

Kathy W and Mike Sotelo outlined progress with the **Worksafe Washington** program. The Department is extending the program with AGC<sup>3</sup> through 1996, to allow time to gather more data and fully evaluate the program. Currently, the agency does not have the funding available to automate the "upfront" premium discounts which employers earn by participating in the program.

Kathy W spoke on the topic of **liens & collections**. At this time the agency has no way of routinely notifying associations when one of their members has, or is about to become past-due on their premium payment(s). This could be done only through manually cross-referencing information from the computer system, and would be unduly labor intensive and cost prohibitive.

**Retro Symposium** - The speakers for the retro participants' conference will be: Barbara Silverstein, Theresa Whitmarsh, John Gentry, Tom Kwieciak and Kathy Willis.

Kathy W talked about the upcoming **retro advisory committee vacancies**, and said that she planned to have the final selection of nominees accomplished prior to the next meeting. She will be in contact with committee members regarding those choices.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: **Tuesday, December 12, 1995, 9:00 a.m.-12 noon;**  
L&I Central Office, Tumwater WA

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<sup>2</sup>Business Process Redesign

<sup>3</sup>Associated General Contractors